In the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) A system for efficient distribution of inventory allotments among a plurality of tiers, comprising:

an allotment database embodied on a computer readable storage medium and accessible by a processor for storing maximum inventory allotments corresponding to inventory categories for each tier, whereby a total of the maximum inventory allotments for all tiers in a single inventory category is greater than a total inventory available for the single inventory category; and

an allotment engine embodied on the computer readable storage medium and configured for monitoring the maximum inventory allotments for each tier and the total inventory available for each inventory category, and configured to make ~~allow~~ a reservation for a particular inventory category upon receiving ~~if~~ a reservation request from a requesting user that is both for less than or equal to the maximum inventory allotment for the tier associated with ~~a~~ the requesting user and for less than or equal to the total inventory available.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the inventory is hotel rooms, ~~and~~ the inventory categories are hotel room categories, and the total inventory available for the single inventory category is a total inventory of a particular hotel room category available at a single hotel.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising an availability database for storing the total inventory available.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a registration engine for verifying registered users and directing the registered user to their assigned tier.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one database comprising a plurality of rates, wherein each of the plurality of rates corresponds to a different inventory category and tier.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method operable by at least one processor for fulfilling a reservation request based on maximum inventory allotments among a plurality of tiers, comprising:

assigning a maximum inventory allotment for each inventory category to each tier by a computing device, whereby a total of the maximum inventory allotments for all tiers in a single inventory category is greater than a total inventory available for the single inventory category;

comparing the reservation request for a particular inventory category from a member of a tier with the maximum inventory allotment corresponding to the particular inventory category for the tier by the computing device;

comparing the reservation request with the total inventory available for the particular inventory category by the computing device; and

fulfilling the reservation request for the particular inventory category by the computing device if the reservation request is both for less than or equal to the maximum inventory allotment for the tier and for less than or equal to the total inventory available.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the inventory is hotel rooms and the inventory categories are hotel room categories.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising updating the total inventory available after fulfilling the reservation.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising requiring the member to provide a member login and password in order to access the tier.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising requiring the member to provide a promotion code in order to access the tier.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising charging the member a rate corresponding to the member's tier for the particular inventory category.

15. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform a method for fulfilling a reservation request based on maximum inventory allotments among a plurality of tiers, the method comprising:

assigning a maximum inventory allotment for each inventory category to each tier, whereby a total of the maximum inventory allotments for all tiers in a single inventory category is greater than a total inventory available for the single inventory category;

comparing the reservation request for a particular inventory category from a member of a tier with the maximum inventory allotment corresponding to the particular inventory category for the tier;

comparing the reservation request with the total inventory available for the particular inventory category; and

fulfilling the reservation request for the particular inventory category if the reservation request is both for less than or equal to the maximum inventory allotment for the tier and for less than or equal to the total inventory available.

16. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method operable by at least one processor for establishing a maximum allotment distribution system, comprising:

establishing a plurality of tiers by a computing device;

assigning each user to one of the plurality of tiers by the computing device;

assigning a maximum inventory allotment for each inventory category to each of the plurality of tiers by the computing device, whereby a total of the maximum inventory allotments for all tiers in a single inventory category is greater than a total inventory available for the single inventory category; and

fulfilling ~~allowing~~ a reservation ~~to be fulfilled if~~ upon receiving a reservation request from a requesting user that is both for less than or equal to the maximum inventory allotment for the tier associated with ~~a~~ the requesting user and for less than or equal to the total inventory available by the computing device.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the inventory is hotel rooms and the inventory categories are hotel room categories.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 further comprising establishing a plurality of rates wherein each of the plurality of rates corresponds to a different inventory category and tier.

20. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium having embodied thereon a program, the program being executable by a machine to perform a method for establishing a maximum inventory distribution system, comprising:

establishing a plurality of tiers;

assigning each user to one of the plurality of tiers;

assigning a maximum inventory allotment for each inventory category to each of the plurality of tiers, whereby a total of the maximum inventory allotments for all tiers in a single inventory category is greater than a total inventory available for the single inventory category; and

fulfilling ~~allowing~~ a reservation ~~to be fulfilled if~~ upon receiving a reservation request from a requesting user that is both for less than or equal to the maximum inventory allotment for the tier associated with ~~a~~ the requesting user and for less than or equal to the total inventory available.

21. (Currently amended) A centralized system for distribution of maximum allotments to users, comprising:

a user engine embodied on a computer readable storage medium and configured for organizing the users into a plurality of tiers; and

a management engine embodied on the computer readable storage medium and operable by a processor for maintaining a maximum inventory allotment for each inventory category for each of the plurality of tiers, and configured to fulfill a reservation for a particular inventory category upon receiving ~~if~~ a reservation request from a requesting user that is both for less than or equal to the maximum inventory allotment for the tier associated with ~~a~~ the requesting user and for less than or equal to the total inventory available, whereby a total of the maximum inventory allotments for all tiers in a single inventory category is greater than a total inventory available for the single inventory category.

22. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the inventory is hotel rooms and the inventory category is a hotel room category.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the management engine further comprises an allotment engine configured for determining if the reservation request for inventory may be fulfilled.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein a tier of the plurality of tiers comprises at least one user.

25. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein a tier of the plurality of tiers comprises a grouping of users having similar characteristics.

26. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the user engine further comprises a travel agent engine and the plurality of tiers are travel agent tiers.

27. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the user engine further comprises a corporate engine and the plurality of tiers are corporate tiers.

28. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the user engine further comprises an other segment engine and the plurality of tiers are other segment tiers.

29. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein the user engine further comprises a guest engine.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising updating the maximum inventory allotment after fulfilling the reservation.